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PORTO RICO *and* CUBA

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PORTO RICO

IT WAS in November, 1493, on his second voyage, that Columbus discovered Porto Rico. The first mention of it is in a letter addressed to the Chapter of Seville by Dr. Chanca, a physician to the fleet of Columbus. "We discovered another island called Burenquen, which we judged to be thirty leagues in length, for we were coasting along it the whole of one day. This island is very beautiful and apparently fertile. Hither the Caribbees come with the view of subduing the inhabitants, and often carry away many of the people. These islanders have no boats, nor any knowledge of navigation."

Porto Rico was thickly populated at the time of its discovery with a quiet, docile race. In common with the other Indians of the West Indies they compressed the head artificially in infancy, rendering the skull very hard, and it is said to have required practice and skill on the part of the Spanish soldiers to crack open the head of an aborigine without injuring his good sword. None of the Indians wore clothing, but they painted themselves elaborately, and as late as 1853, Humboldt says, "To go out of the hut without being painted would be to transgress all rules of Carib decency."

The friendship with which the Indians of the more northern islands greeted the Christian voyagers was sadly abused. The white races have never felt that any man could read his title clear to land, if he were unable to prove his claim by superior physical force. In this case, as with the Indians of North America, and the negroes of Africa, the title could not be proved, and the Spaniards entered into possession. Columbus, while depriving the natives of their terrestrial titles, took pains to explain that they merely exchanged them for titles celestial. He writes:

"In all the countries visited by your Highnesses' ships I

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have caused a high cross to be fixed upon every headland, and have proclaimed to every nation that I have discovered the lofty estate of your Highnesses and of your Court in Spain. I also tell them all I can respecting our holy faith, and of the belief in the holy Mother Church, which has its members in all the world, and I speak to them also of the courtesy and nobleness of all Christians, and of the faith they have in the Holy Trinity."

The first white settlement on Porto Rico was made by Ponce de Leon, who came to the island in 1508 and founded his capital the following year on the north shore, calling the place Caparra. In the same year, however, he began to build San Juan, to which town he shortly moved.

The discovery of gold in Hayti created a demand for labor and the natives were caught and shipped to the mines, there to be beaten and worked and starved until they died. There were always more to take the places of the dead, and it did not pay to consider complaints. After the passing of the native came the introduction of African slavery, though never in large proportions till the nineteenth century.

Although there was no mineral wealth in Porto Rico, its tropical beauties attracted the cupidity of other nations, and in 1538 France invaded the island. The English tried it six times in all. The Dutch took a hand in 1625, and our own Admiral Porter, in his successful raids on the West Indian pirates, could not resist the temptation in 1824. Seventy-four years later Admiral Sampson fired a few shots, which injured a church and El Morro, and departed, leaving the island in peace till the arrival of General Miles.

In 1815 was issued a royal decree entitled "Regulations for promoting the Population, Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of the Island of Porto Rico." This decree held out the most flattering prospects to worthy foreigners, conferring on them the rights and privileges of Spaniards. Free land was granted, and freedom from taxes. For fifteen years they were relieved from tithes and exportation duties. That this was a wise and enlightened policy has been proved

by the fact that the period of Porto Rico's prosperity dates from that time, its population and wealth having increased in greater measure than in any other of the West Indian islands.

In 1873 slavery was abolished, and thirty-four thousand negroes were given their freedom. After five years they were granted the franchise. The indemnification of the masters was appropriated from the Porto Rican budget. In 1870 Porto Rico was made a province of Spain, with representation in the Cortes, elected by universal suffrage. In 1897 autonomy was granted. By it the island had a Premier and a House of Representatives. This form of government was not fully tried, for in 1898 the flag of the United States was raised over Porto Rico and she was declared to be part of the territory of our Union.

RESOURCES

Porto Rico is not a large country, being in fact but one-half the size of New Jersey, or about one hundred miles long and forty miles wide, mountainous in the center, with a flat rim around its sea coast. These fertile plains around the island's edge are planted with sugar and produce two hundred and fifty thousand tons of sugar annually.

Tobacco is the next largest article of export; then follows coffee, which is raised on the mountains and highlands, and is of a good quality. When we consider that the coffee bill of the United States amounts to over eighty-seven millions of dollars a year, it seems somewhat unfortunate that we should pass by Porto Rico in our search for the so-called Mocha which comes from the highlands of Brazil.

Fruit culture is increasing in the island, oranges, bananas, pineapples and grape fruit are shipped north in great quantities. Cattle-raising is profitable, owing to the abundance of pasturage. Besides these industries, which represent the main wealth of the island, there are a few smaller ones, among which are the various forms of weaving in straw and

inlaid work in woods. Woman's work is clearly defined; it is needle-work, and the beautiful embroideries and fine drawn-work which are shown to the admiring guest speak of many hours passed with needle and scissors.

With the increased number of public schools has come a demand for teachers, and many more of the young women of the island are preparing themselves for that work than was the custom in former years, though it still remains true that many of the teachers are men.

The population of the island is about one million, and forty per cent. of these are of colored blood. The Spanish and their descendants are, of course, in the majority among the whites. Many of them are wealthy and maintain the pride of their estate with all the dignity of Spanish grandees.

THE TRIP TO PORTO RICO

When we leave the harbor of New York we sail for fourteen hundred miles to the southeast, and so come to San Juan, the capital. No frost ever touches this beautiful tropical island; summer and winter the temperature is very much the same; the humidity is great, however. On the northern coast the annual rainfall is about 120 inches, and at night, especially in the mountains, everything is drenched with heavy dews. On the southern coast conditions are different, and the dry season there frequently lasts for two or three months.

The harbors of Porto Rico are inferior to those of Cuba; on the other hand, the highways are somewhat better. Many miles of fine roads have been made since the American occupation of the island, and much new territory has been brought into touch with the railroad which runs around the northern and western coast from San Juan to Ponce. The most famous of all the roads, however, is the old military road, made in Spanish days, and which goes straight across the island from San Juan to Ponce, a distance of eighty-five

miles, covered easily in one day by the automobile coaches which have largely supplanted the coach and horses of other days. This is one of the best highways in the western hemisphere, climbing the mountains with easy grades and beautiful curves to a height of twenty-five hundred feet, then dropping to the level plains of the southern coast. The scenery on this long drive is of great beauty. As it climbs higher into the mountains the cocoa palm is replaced by the royal palm, with its gray shaft, like a granite column, and its plume-like crown of verdure. Coffee plantations creep to the very crown of the mountains. Men and women are dotted over the valleys working in the tobacco fields. The flamboyan tree, with its foliage like a sensitive plant, and its brilliant vermillion flowers, shades the road. Groves of banana trees with their gigantic, glossy leaves, and the single red blossom pendant at the end of the bunch of fruit, accentuate the tropical note. Oranges fall on the roadside. The bread-tree with its many-fingered leaves stands ready with its fruit. The thatched huts of the peon fit easily into the landscape. As we look we see a man ploughing with a pointed stick in good Biblical style. His primitive machine answers the purposes very well in the rich, moist soil around us.

MISSION STATIONS

SAN JUAN, our landing place, gives also our first view of mission work. The Board of Home Missions has here three organized churches, an English and a Spanish church in San Juan proper and a Spanish church in Santurce. The church building in San Juan is on a street near the palace, and is the only memorial building we have on the island. The Hugh O'Neill Memorial Church contains an audience room on one side, and schoolrooms on the other, while on the roof there is a cool, pleasant home for the teachers, looking out over the harbor and the channel where the ships for the homeland go and come.

The English Church numbers about forty members; twelve were added during the last year. This congregation has raised, for the support of the pastor, five hundred dollars during the year, in addition to running expenses. The men have recently organized a Presbyterian brotherhood, which is probably the first in the West Indies.

The Spanish services are held in the same church Sunday evenings, and the membership is about one hundred and thirty. There is increasing willingness shown by the Porto Ricans to carry the responsibility of their church work.

In Santurce, a suburb of San Juan, is one of our strongest native churches, with a membership of about two hundred and sixty. This was the first Presbyterian church in Porto Rico, and was built in 1900 by our first missionary in San Juan.

The ten years of Christian instruction have developed a sturdy Christian manhood amongst its members. They carry on prayer meetings in several wards; they are interested teachers in the Sunday School, and they feel a sense of responsibility for other needy neighborhoods. Last year they contributed time and labor towards the erection of a house of worship for the outlying village of Cangrejo Arriba. Many of the workmen walked seven miles night and morning until the little chapel was completed. There was much happiness when it was dedicated on February twenty-second, in the presence of many friends, both Porto Rican and American.

Supplementary to this evangelistic work our Woman's Board conducts a school in San Juan, in the Hugh O'Neill Memorial building. It has two efficient teachers. Last and by no means least is the San Juan Hospital, with its far-reaching and beneficent work. The hospital has been built on the cottage system, and consists now of four buildings, dispensary, administration building, the wards, and Training Home for Nurses. There are two resident physicians in charge of the hospital, with several American nurses. The staff of the training school consists of a head nurse and a

number of native assistants who are taking the regular course in nursing.

TOA ALTA, about eighteen miles distant from San Juan, has an organized church, ministered to by a native helper, who was formerly a Roman Catholic priest. Besides this the missionary conducts monthly services at Campo Alegre, Gandul, Mellila and Leborneo.

Twenty to thirty miles west of San Juan are the two mountain towns Corozal and Naranjito. In each there is an organized church. There is a very good church building at Corozal, where the minister who serves the two towns resides, and the whole village seems to bear the most kindly feeling toward him and his work.

ISABELA is on the railroad, about fifty miles west of San Juan. We have a church building and manse here, and a well-organized church. Our missionaries endeavor to be most thorough in indoctrinating their converts, and every effort is made to make them thoroughly intelligent regarding the Protestant faith. Besides the ordained minister at Isabela we have also a native helper. At Jobos, an out-station, a new chapel has recently been completed, built largely by the people themselves, The church is organized and has a growing membership. The Sunday School services are sometimes so crowded that the seating capacity of the building is insufficient. At Quebradillas, another out-station, there is also an organized church.

AGUADILLA. A railroad ride of about ten miles brings us to this beautiful town, stretching away for a mile or more along the sea coast, and still supplied with water by the same fountain from which Columbus watered his ships. Here we find a beautiful church building and a good manse. The missionary and his three native helpers preach to twelve out-stations and four organized churches, with a total membership in this field of more than six hundred and fifty.

We have also a flourishing school in Aguadilla, with four teachers in charge. The classes are full and the school has a strong hold on the community.

SAN SEBASTIAN is reached by driving or automobiling sixteen miles back into the mountains. We have here a large native house, the ground floor of which is used for a church, and the second story for the missionary's home. Our missionary, like all the others on the island, goes on horseback to the nearby towns, and visits four each week.

LARES, seven miles higher up in the mountains, has an organized church in a rented building. There is also a school conducted by two American teachers. Returning to Aguadilla, we take the railroad again and go to

AÑASCO, a town of nearly three thousand people. We have an organized church here and are about to put up a building. There are five out-stations and three organized churches in this field, Sabanetas and Rincon, with a chapel recently erected, being the other two churches. There are two native helpers at work in these places.

MAYAGUEZ we reach by train. It is an attractive town of about twenty thousand inhabitants, with the sea at its feet and the mountains rising beautifully green behind it. It was here that the first missionary of our Board was sent in June, 1899, and time has strengthened the work, which is now large and well established. Our church is in a beautiful building, and all its services are well attended. The membership in this field is over six hundred and the weekly prayer meeting averages from one hundred to one hundred and fifty.

The Marina Mission has been organized into a church and is a promising field. A church has also been formed at Hormigueros, in this district. There are four Sunday Schools, with between five and six hundred scholars. There is also a dispensary, and the resident physician cares for the poor not only of Mayaguez, but of the neighboring towns as well. He and the missionaries, with the native helpers, are kept busy with the many out-stations, most of which must be visited on horseback. The medical work is reaching more than twelve hundred patients a month, and includes surgical as well as medical cases. The Board hopes

to be able soon to put up a small hospital in connection with the dispensary.

An interesting feature of the work in Mayaguez is the Theological Training School carried on by the American ministers, with the assistance of some Porto Ricans. The training of native evangelists for work among their own people is most important and good results are already beginning to make themselves felt.

The work in Mayaguez is centralized on one large block in the heart of the city, the church is on one corner, the Training School and Colegio on another, while the dispensary and missionary's home occupy the other corners.

The Colegio Americano under the Woman's Board, is doing excellent work. We have six teachers in this school. One of them, a native Porto Rican, gives instruction in the Spanish classics. As in all our schools, the Bible is in daily use.

The Marina school is also full to overflowing. The earnest work of the teachers in these schools has resulted in the forming of an organized church in this community.

MARICAO, some miles from Mayaguez, has a church cared for by our first ordained Porto Rican minister.

From Mayaguez we travel by train twelve miles to

SAN GERMAN, where we have an organized church, with a fine building, and a manse beside it, both built of concrete blocks. The missionary and his native helpers visit twenty-six preaching places weekly. There are four organized churches and nine Sunday schools.

The Woman's Board supports one native teacher at San German.

A chapel was completed last year at Palmarejo, one of the out-stations, and a bell was sent by a kind friend who gives bells whenever they are needed on the island.

There are twenty-five places now in Porto Rico where chapels are urgently needed at costs varying from two hundred to three thousand dollars. In all of these places the

people have asked for the buildings and have themselves promised to pay a definite proportion of the costs.

We have now gone the rounds of our work in Porto Rico. It will be seen that, aside from work in the capital, all our stations are in the western part of the island. This is the result of the comity agreement between the different denominations working in the island at the close of the war. It was agreed by the secretaries of the various Boards that the island should be districted. The portion for which we as a Presbyterian Church are responsible is the western coast. It will be helpful and interesting to look briefly at the good work now being done by the other denominations.

The Baptists, working in the neighborhood of the Military Road, from San Juan to Ponce, have seventy-three stations, thirty-eight organized churches with nineteen hundred members, and forty-seven Sunday schools.

The Congregationalists on the eastern part of the island, have ten churches, three missionaries, nine native helpers, six hundred members, and one day school with one hundred and fifty-nine pupils.

The Methodist Church, working largely to the west of the Military Road has thirteen missionaries, and twenty-five native helpers. They have organized churches with nearly six thousand members.

The Protestant Episcopal Church has nineteen stations, seven clergymen and five women missionaries, three organized churches with nearly five hundred members, and three day schools with over four hundred pupils.

The United Brethren, whose work is chiefly in the southern part of the island, have nine missionaries (men and women), fourteen native workers, fourteen churches, twenty-two out-stations, eight hundred and seventy members. twenty-three Sunday Schools, with twelve hundred and seventy-three pupils.

CUBA

Much of the early history of Porto Rico is duplicated in Cuba. It was discovered by Columbus in 1492. He named it Juana, in honor of Prince Juan, son of Ferdinand and Isabella. After the death of Ferdinand the name was changed to Fernandina. Later it was called Santiago, and again Ave Maria. Cuba is said to be the name given to it by its native inhabitants. Columbus visited the island on two later trips, in 1494 and 1502. In 1508 it was circumnavigated and proved to be an island, and in 1511 Diego Columbus, the son of the discoverer, fitted out an expedition for its colonization. In 1514 Santiago and Trinidad were settled. Havana was founded in 1519.

At the time of its discovery Cuba is supposed to have had a population of about three hundred thousand. At the end of the century few of these survived. The same severe and bloody tactics which depopulated Porto Rico were employed in Cuba, and with the same results. After 1580 negro slaves were imported in large numbers to work in the cultivation of tobacco and sugar, both of which industries became active at that time. The early history of Cuba was not peaceful. The French, English and Dutch all attacked its shores. In 1762, after an invasion by the British, about one-fourth of the island was surrendered to the English, but it was restored to Spain by treaty a few months later. After this time Cuba entered upon a period of prosperity which continued for many years. In 1825 King Ferdinand issued a decree which gave the captain-generals almost absolute authority over the island. These officers were not natives of Cuba, and many of them used the office solely as a means of acquiring a fortune. The people of Cuba were excluded from office, heavily taxed to support a standing army, and deprived of civil and religious liberty.

As a result the native population was filled with a bitter hatred of the Spanish officers. In 1868, after a series of

insurrections, a rebellion broke out which lasted for ten years. Spain sent more than 150,000 soldiers to quell this revolt, but in the end was obliged to offer favorable terms to the insurrectionists. The promised reforms, however, were not realized; taxation continued as heavy, officials were as corrupt and restrictions on commerce were as severe as before the rebellion, and the natural result was a fresh outbreak of hostilities. This occurred in February, 1895. For three years Spain sought in vain to suppress the trouble, sending 200,000 men to the island, and using measures whose barbarity filled the world with horror. Under Captain-General Weyler the country people were driven from their homes, their houses and crops destroyed, and it is estimated that more than 200,000 of them died of disease and starvation.

President Palma said of that time, "Only in the United States was there sympathy for the oppressed and the outraged." Money and provisions were sent to feed the starving, and a strong sentiment in favor of warlike aid arose. This sentiment crystallized when the battleship Maine was blown up in the Havana harbor, in February, 1898, and on April 21st war was declared between the United States and Spain.

Within four months war was at an end and Cuba was free. By the terms of the peace protocol Spain agreed to remove her forces from Cuba, and this was done on the first of January, 1899. On that day the United States entered into a temporary military occupation of the island until a stable government should be established by the Cubans. This was accomplished in 1902, when a republic was constituted and Palma was inaugurated as president.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

Cuba is the most western and the largest of the Great Antilles. Because of its beauty and fertility, Columbus first gave it the title of the Pearl of the Antilles. "It has but

a small proportion of untillable declivities and rocky areas, such as are found in New England; no barren fields of volcanic lava, such as occur in the Central American lands; no arid areas like those which make up so large a proportion of Mexico and the western half of the United States; no stretches of sterile, sandy lands, like those of Florida and other coastal Southern States. Its proportion of swamp lands is less than that of the average American seaboard State. The whole island is covered with rich soils—fertile calcareous loams—which under constant humidity yield in abundance every form of useful vegetation of the tropical and temperate climes."

Its area, including the adjacent islands, is about 45,000 square miles, or slightly less than that of New York State. It is nearly seven times as long as Long Island, and stretches between the longitudes of New York and Cincinnati, about 720 miles. It is less than one hundred miles wide. Its sea-coast is very extensive. With all its indentations and including the bordering islets—about thirteen hundred in number—it is over 6,800 miles. There are fifty-four ports, only fifteen of which have heretofore been open to the commerce of the world. The light-houses along the coast are very few, and many of the harbors greatly need improving.

Cuba has a backbone of highlands, which in the province of Santiago becomes a mountain range of bold proportions, culminating in the Pico del Turquino, which rises very abruptly from the sea to a height of about 8,500 feet. Cuba is famous for its beautiful and fertile valleys, many of which are wide plains watered by rivers and streams on their way to the sea. One of the most beautiful is the peculiar circular basin west of Matanzas, called the valley of the Yumuri. "This comparatively level depression is some five or six miles in diameter, and dotted with picturesque estates and long avenues of royal palms. Through its center winds the beautiful Yumuri River, which finds an outlet at Matanzas through the vertical walls of an exquisite cañon. It is enclosed on all sides by steeply sloping walls rising some

five or six hundred feet to the level of a plateau out of which the valley has been cut. It has been truly said that it is impossible to describe the charm of this 'Happy Valley,' so rich in its vegetation, and so delightfully is it watered by the river Yumuri and tributary streams; so delicious, even on the hottest summer days is its atmosphere, tempered by the Atlantic breezes."

There are many streams on the island, two hundred of them rising to the dignity of being called rivers. The largest of these is the Cauto, about one hundred and fifty miles long. One peculiarity of the water courses is that many of the streams sink into the earth and follow subterranean passages, sometimes never reappearing. The caverns of the country are very beautiful in snow-like whiteness and delicacy of the stalactite and stalagmite forms.

Much of the island of Cuba is still covered with an uncleared forest of tropical luxuriance. Many of the finest woods of commerce are to be found there. The palm, with over thirty species, is everywhere present.

RESOURCES

Three hundred years of cultivation have exterminated the forests from the valleys of the center and west of the island, and vast fields of sugar have taken their place. Many of the estates embrace several thousand acres, and the superior methods of handling cane and extracting the juice have made the cultivation of cane-sugar profitable in spite of the competition of beet-sugar, which has so impoverished many of the other islands of the West Indies. Cuba produces nearly two million tons of cane-sugar a year.

Tobacco is secondary to sugar as to the area under cultivation, but is more profitable in proportion to the acreage. It is said that with care three thousand dollars' worth of tobacco may be raised on a single acre. About eighty thousand persons are on an average engaged in its cultivation.

Coffee at one time was an important crop, but at present

it is nearly all consumed locally. Fruit and nuts have been profitable, and can be made increasingly so. Vegetables for the northern market are a source of revenue. Along some portions of the coast turtle and sponge fishing are active industries. Cattle-raising is becoming an increasingly profitable industry owing to the large area of rich pasture lands. Iron ore has been so far the chief metallic resource of Cuba. Asphaltum is found in a few places; there is also some copper and salt, but the mineral wealth of the island is not great. The value of all its exports has increased 131 per cent. in the last ten years, and the principal trade has been with the United States.

The means of communication are poor, as aside from a few main highways the roads are in a poor condition. There are about sixteen hundred miles of railway. The principal line runs from Havana to Santiago. Some of the lines connect with private railways built by the planters for convenience in moving their crops. The fact that most of the large towns of Cuba are seaports, taken with the additional fact of the narrowness of the island and the numerous good harbors, has rendered the inhabitants more indifferent to the means of travel on land. Many of the ports are regularly visited by American, French and Spanish lines of steamers.

Cuba is rather thinly populated considering its great fertility. In 1907 the estimated population was 2,048,980. During the troublous times of the insurrection, with its fatal accompaniments of disease and famine, there was a marked decrease.

THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY

Of the Cuban whites, perhaps one-fifth are Spanish. In 1841 it is said that fifty-eight per cent. of the population was black, while in 1907 the percentage was but thirty. There are also about thirty thousand coolies who have been gradually imported, principally from China. The popula-

tion of Cuba was greatly changed at the time of the insurrection. The rural population of the four western provinces was largely obliterated, and the Bishop of Havana is authority for the statement that more than four hundred thousand people were buried in consecrated cemeteries.

Seventy-five years ago Humboldt placed Havana with Rio Janiero as one of the five great tropical cities of the world. Havana is 22 degrees north, Rio 22 degrees south of the equator. When Humboldt wrote Havana had a population of one hundred thousand, while that of Rio was one hundred and thirty-five thousand. At present the population of Rio is about six hundred thousand, while that of Havana is but three hundred thousand. The uncertain governmental conditions in Cuba have doubtless been a large reason for the retarded growth of Havana.

San Cristobal de la Habana, to give the full Spanish name to this picturesque old city, is beautifully situated on one of the finest harbors in the world. Its entrance is guarded by several forts, famous for their antiquity. The building material of Havana is a loosely-textured conglomerate of sea-shell, of a glaring white color. This is covered with stucco and often brilliantly colored. The parks and promenades of the city are many and beautiful. The Prado is a magnificent avenue of unusual width; the fashionable Parque Central, with its wealth of trees and flowers, forms an enlargement of this avenue, and is one of the attractive features of the city. Fronting on it are the best hotels and theatres, while around it extend open-air *cafés*, brilliantly lighted at night, and as gay as those of Paris.

Havana is said to possess 20,000 houses. Of these 14,000 are but one story high, 3,000 are two-story buildings, while but 250 reach the limit of four stories. The small houses contain no storerooms, pantries or closets, which necessitates the purchase of supplies from day to day.

One-fifth of the population of Havana lives within the area once surrounded by the now demolished walls. Some of the old streets are so narrow that signs are placed on

their corners signifying "up" or "down," to indicate that drivers must pass in one direction only. Rents all over the city are high, and Havana is a very expensive place in which to live.

The second city and seaport of central Cuba is Matanzas, about sixty miles east of Havana; its population is about fifty thousand.

Santiago, in the eastern province, is the center of the mineral region of Cuba. It is one of the most important places on the island from a strategic and political point of view. Its population is about sixty thousand.

MISSION STATIONS

Although Cuba does not belong to us in any political sense, its proximity made it seem wise that our mission work there should be under the management of the Board of Home Missions, just as the remoteness of the Philippines had made it more convenient that its mission work should be conducted by the Board of Foreign Missions.

The progress of Protestant missions has been marked; the minds and hearts of the people turn eagerly toward the simple gospel. Especially in the smaller cities is it true that they welcome the Protestant missions, and that every place opened for services is at first filled with interested seekers after truth. The writer of a book entitled "To-morrow in Cuba," in speaking of the religious situation there, says: "To the mass of the Cuban people, the Church as it remained to them was hateful. It was identified with all that was bad in the buried Spanish domination. If not hostile they were indifferent. . . . The extent to which the Cuban people have fallen away from the Church is recognized by American Catholics. Whether it is a permanent alienation must be determined by events. . . . The intellectual life of the island has been variously described as agnostic, infidel, and free thinking. A majority of the men call themselves free-thinkers to describe their mental atti-

tude rather toward the Catholic Church than to religion." To meet these conditions our Protestant missionaries must show great tact and wisdom. One of the most delicate questions since the war has been that of the cemeteries. Popular resentment was strong against the Church for its monopoly of the burial of the dead, and the utterance of a young Cuban, "Protestantism cannot be bad because they baptize you free, and they bury you free," gives insight into the feelings of the Cubans as to the externals, at least, of our faith.

Havana was chosen as our first mission field, and in October, 1901, our first missionary began work. In January, 1902, the first Presbyterian Church was organized with fifty members. After worshipping for some years in a rented building, a plot of ground, centrally located, was purchased, and in October, 1907, a beautiful church was dedicated. The audience room is large and airy; the building also contains a home for the missionary and teachers. This was the first Protestant church edifice to be erected in the city, and has done much to give prestige and solidarity to our mission.

In countries like Cuba and Porto Rico, where the government has always supported the Church, the people are to a certain extent unfavorably impressed by a religion which is unable to put up a fine church building. They argue that if the people of that religion do not care enough for it to build a suitable church, the religion cannot be worth much.

Our missionary in Havana and his assistants preach in five other stations in the city besides the out-stations Marinao, Puentes Grandes and Bejucal. The Woman's Board conducts a school in Havana with two teachers.

GUINES was the second station occupied by our church, in January, 1902. It is about thirty-five miles southeast of Havana, and can be reached by railroad. It is a city of about nine thousand people, and is situated in a beautiful and fertile plain. The elders of this church are all Cubans

who have been brought into the Protestant faith since our work was founded there. Our school is a flourishing one with three teachers.

A few miles beyond Guines we have two organized churches, San Nicolas and Nueva Paz. At the latter place there is an attractive church building, which includes a residence for the missionary. We have there also a flourishing school under the care of one American and two native teachers.

The tendency toward church union finds a significant illustration in the transfer by the Congregational Home Missionary Society of all its work in Cuba to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. By this transfer, made in March, 1909, five churches and one out-station were added to our list. These were Guanajay, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Guanabacoa, and San Antonio de los Baños, with the chapel of San Francisco in Havana.

Sancti Spiritus is a long railway ride of two hundred miles east of Havana. It is situated about twenty-four miles from the coast, and in the province of Santa Clara; a rich agricultural district. It has a population of about twelve thousand people. It boasts the oldest Roman Catholic church on the island, dating back to 1604. In May, 1902, our mission work began there, and for several years it has been held in a building which was formerly a Jesuit college. The missionary and his elder serve also three outstations. Our school here is one of the largest we have in Cuba and is conducted by two American and two native teachers.

West of Havana we have organized churches at Guira de Melana, Artemisa and San Cristobal, with the outstations Cayajabos, Candelaria and Puerto Esperanza, and occasional services at two other points.

We now have in Cuba five American missionaries, with eight native ministers and three licentiates. We have sixteen organized churches, with a membership of 1,400. Our Sabbath Schools number twenty-three, with an attendance

of about 1,500. We have six day schools, taught by eight American and seven native teachers. Two of these schools are self-supporting. The total enrollment of pupils is about 350. The average weekly attendance upon our services is 2,623.

A missionary writes: "The attitude of the public toward the Gospel varies in different places; much depends on the local priest, and also upon the aptitude and tact of the pastor.

"The principal obstacles may be summed up as Romish fanaticism, governmental patronage (indirect) of the Roman Church, governmental indifference to the intellectual and moral condition of the people, prevalent disbelief, the lottery, cock fighting, Sabbath breaking, licentiousness fostered by immoral public spectacles in places of entertainment, to which may be added a growing anti-American prejudice."

Having thus gone over the work which our own Boards are doing, we will look briefly at the work of the other denominations.

The Episcopal Church has forty-eight stations, seven missionaries, thirty-one native helpers, four organized churches, one thousand three hundred and fifty communicants, besides twelve schools with five hundred pupils.

The Southern Baptists have eighteen churches, eighteen ministers, native and American, over a thousand church members, and nearly as many pupils in Sunday Schools.

The Northern Baptists have sixty-eight stations, forty-four organized churches, 2,218 church members, forty-two Sunday-schools with 1,630 pupils.

The Southern Methodists have twenty-four men and women, twenty-six native helpers, fourteen organized churches, three thousand two hundred and three members, thirty-five church buildings. They have also three schools with an approximate attendance of seven hundred.

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Map Talk on Missions in Porto Rico and Cuba

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PORTO RICO

It was in November, 1493, on his second voyage, that Columbus discovered Porto Rico. The first mention of it is in a letter addressed to the Chapter of Seville by Dr. Chanca, a physician to the fleet of Columbus. "We discovered another island called Burenquen, which we judged to be thirty leagues in length, for we were coasting along it the whole of one day. This island is very beautiful and apparently fertile. Hither the Caribbees come with the view of subduing the inhabitants, and often carry away many of the people. These islanders have no boats, nor any knowledge of navigation."

Porto Rico was thickly populated at the time of its discovery with a quiet, docile race. In common with the other Indians of the West Indies they compressed the head artificially in infancy, rendering the skull very hard, and it is said to have required practice and skill on the part of the Spanish soldiers to crack open the head of an aborigine without injuring his good sword. None of the Indians wore clothing, but they painted themselves elaborately, and as late as 1853, Humboldt says, "To go out of the hut without being painted would be to transgress all rules of Carib decency."

The friendship with which the Indians of the more northern islands greeted the Christian voyagers was sadly abused. The white races have never felt that any man could read his title clear to land, if he were unable to prove his claim by superior physical force. In this case, as with the Indians of North America, and the negroes of Africa, the title could not be proved, and the Spaniards entered into possession. Columbus, while depriving the natives of their

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terrestrial titles, took pains to explain that they merely exchanged them for titles celestial. He writes:

"In all the countries visited by your Highnesses' ships I have caused a high cross to be fixed upon every headland, and have proclaimed to every nation that I have discovered, the lofty estate of your Highnesses and of your Court in Spain. I also tell them all I can respecting our holy faith, and of the belief in the holy Mother Church, which has its members in all the world, and I speak to them also of the courtesy and nobleness of all Christians, and of the faith they have in the Holy Trinity."

The first white settlement on Porto Rico was made by Ponce de Leon, who came to the island in 1508 and founded his capital the following year on the north shore, calling the place Caparra. In the same year, however, he began to build San Juan, to which town he shortly moved.

The discovery of gold in Hayti created a demand for labor and the natives were caught and shipped to the mines, there to be beaten and worked and starved until they died. There were always more to take the places of the dead, and it did not pay to consider complaints. After the passing of the native came the introduction of African slavery though never in large proportions till the nineteenth century.

Although there was no mineral wealth in Porto Rico, its tropical beauties attracted the cupidity of other nations, and in 1538 France invaded the island. The English tried it six times in all. The Dutch took a hand in 1625, and our own Admiral Porter, in his successful raids on the West Indian pirates, could not resist the temptation in 1824. Seventy-four years later, Admiral Sampson fired a few shots which injured a church and El Morro, and departed, leaving

the island in peace till the arrival of General Miles.

In 1815 was issued a royal decree entitled "Regulations for promoting the Population, Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, of the Island of Porto Rico." This decree held out the most flattering prospects to worthy foreigners, conferring on them the rights and privileges of Spaniards. Free land was granted, and freedom from taxes. For fifteen years they were relieved from tithes and exportation duties. That this was a wise and enlightened policy has been proved by the fact that the period of Porto Rico's prosperity dates from that time, its population and wealth having increased in greater measure than in any other of the West Indian islands.

In 1873, slavery was abolished, and thirty-four thousand negroes were given their freedom. After five years they were granted the franchise. The indemnification of the masters was appropriated from the Porto Rican budget. In 1870 Porto Rico was made a province of Spain, with representation in the Cortes, elected by universal suffrage. In 1897 autonomy was granted. By it the island had a Premier and a House of Representatives. This form of government was not fully tried, for in 1898 the flag of the United States was raised over Porto Rico and she was declared to be part of the territory of our Union.

RESOURCES.

Porto Rico is not a large country, being in fact but one-half the size of New Jersey, or about one hundred miles long and forty miles wide, mountainous in the center, with a flat rim around its sea coast. These fertile plains around the island's edge are planted with sugar and produce eighty thousand tons of sugar annually.

Coffee is raised on the mountains and highlands, and is of a good quality. When we consider that the coffee bill of the United States amounts to over eighty-seven millions of dollars a year, it seems somewhat unfortunate that we should pass by Porto Rico in our search for the so-called Mocha which comes from the highlands of Brazil.

The fruit culture of the island has not been well developed. Oranges are abundant in a semi-wild state. Bananas are the most prolific crop, with half a dozen varieties, from datalies to plantains. Porto Rico is said to ship annually two hundred millions of bananas.

Tobacco is one of the smaller crops. Cattle-raising is profitable, owing to the abundance of pasturage. Besides these industries, which represent the main wealth of the island, there are a few smaller ones, among which are the various forms of weaving in straw and inlaid work in woods. Woman's work is clearly defined; it is needle-work. A few there are who teach, but very few, and the beautiful embroideries and fine drawn-work which are shown to the admiring guest speak of many hours passed with needle and scissors.

The population of the island is about eight hundred thousand, and forty per cent. of these are of colored blood. The Spanish and their descendants are, of course, in the majority among the whites. Many of them are wealthy and maintain the pride of their estate with all the dignity of Spanish grandees.

THE TRIP TO PORTO RICO.

When we leave the harbor of New York we sail for fourteen hundred miles to the southeast, and so

come to San Juan, the capital. No frost ever touches this beautiful tropical island; summer and winter the temperature is very much the same; the humidity is great, however. On the northern coast the annual rainfall is about 120 inches, and at night, especially in the mountains, everything is drenched with heavy dews. On the southern coast conditions are different, and the dry season there frequently lasts for two or three months.

The harbors of Porto Rico are inferior to those of Cuba: on the other hand, the highways are somewhat better. The most famous of these is the military road which crosses the island from San Juan to Ponce, a distance of eighty-five miles. It is one of the best highways in the western hemisphere, climbing the mountains with easy grades and beautiful curves to a height of twenty-five hundred feet, then dropping to the level plains of the southern coast. The scenery on this long drive is of great beauty. As it climbs higher into the mountains the cocoa palm is replaced by the royal palm, with its gray shaft, like a granite column, and its plume-like crown of verdure. Coffee plantations creep to the very crown of the mountains. Men and women are dotted over the valleys working in the tobacco fields. The flamboyan tree with its foliage like a sensitive plant, and its brilliant vermillion flowers, shades the road. Groves of banana trees with their gigantic, glossy leaves, and the single red blossom pendant at the end of the bunch of fruit accentuate the tropical note. Oranges fall on the roadside. The bread-tree with its many-fingered leaves stands ready with its fruit. The thatched huts of the peon fit easily into the landscape. As we look we see a man ploughing with a pointed stick in good Biblical style. His primitive

machine answers the purpose very well in the rich, moist soil around us.

The beauty of a tropical scene has been well described by Dr. E. Rufz, a native of Martinique: "The sea, the sea alone, because it is the most colossal of earthly spectacles—only the sea can afford us a term of comparison for the attempt to describe a great forest, but even then one must imagine the sea on a day of storm, suddenly immobilized in the expression of its mightiest fury. For the summits of these vast woods repeat all the inequalities of the land they cover; and these inequalities are mountains from forty-two hundred to forty-eight hundred feet in height, and valleys of corresponding profundity. All this is hidden, blended together, smoothed over by verdure, in soft and enormous undulations—immense billowings of foliage. Only, instead of a blue line at the horizon, you have a green line; instead of flashings of blue, you have flashings of green—and in all the tints, in all the combinations of which green is capable: deep green, light green, yellow green, black green."

MISSION STATIONS.

SAN JUAN, our landing place, gives also our first view of mission work. The Board of Home Missions has here three organized churches. In San Juan proper there is an English church where work is carried on amongst the Americans, civilians and soldiers. This work is in a rented room. There is also a Spanish church which is ministered to by the pastor of the church at Santurce. This work is also in a rented building. At Santurce, a suburb of San Juan, the Board has a beautiful church, built in a somewhat

Spanish style of architecture. This was the first Presbyterian church in Porto Rico, and was built in 1900 by our first missionary in San Juan. It has been well filled from its beginning, and is growing constantly.

In addition to these churches in the city, our missionary and his three native helpers go from week to week to various out-stations, ten to fifteen miles from San Juan, where they preach and teach many more than come to our churches in the city itself. These stations are at Melilla, Alto del Cabro, Machuchal, Gandul, Zebrurnco, Cangrejo Arriba, Toa Alto, Naranjito, Corozal. In the two last named, we have organized churches.

Supplementary to this evangelistic work our Woman's Board conducts a school in San Juan, principally among the poor. It has two efficient teachers. Last and by no means least is the San Juan Hospital, with its far-reaching and beneficent work. The hospital has been built on the cottage system, and consists now of four buildings, dispensary, administration building, the wards, and Training Home for Nurses.

There are two resident physicians in charge of the hospital. The staff of the training school consists of a head nurse and a number of native assistants who are taking the regular course in nursing.

ISABELA, about fifty miles west of San Juan, is our next station. We travel by train to Camuy, where we take a carriage for the remaining twelve or fifteen miles. We have a church building here, and a well-organized work. Our missionaries endeavor to be most thorough in indoctrinating their converts, and every effort is made to make them thoroughly intelligent regarding the Protestant faith. Besides the ordained minister at Isabela we have also

a native Bible reader whose chief work lies in house-to-house visitation. The out-stations are Quebradillas, with an organized church, Jabos, Guerrero, and La Marino.

AGUADILLA. A drive of about ten miles brings us to this beautiful town, stretching away for a mile or more along the sea coast, and still supplied with water by the same fountain from which Columbus watered his ships. Here we find a beautiful church building, with a flourishing church of nearly four hundred members. This church was on the honor roll of the Presbyterian churches in the United States for the number of members added during the year.

The missionary and his native helpers preach from time to time in many out-stations: Aguada, La Carcel, Espinal, Palmas, Victoria, Voladora, Guayobo, Piedra Blanca, Corrales, Moca and Malesa Alta. We have organized churches in the last two towns, with a good chapel building in Malesa Alta.

Aguadilla is also headquarters for a medical work of great usefulness. We have a dispensary in a rented building in the town, and the physician visits the out-stations on stated days, giving medical aid to many who receive no other care. Our school is a flourishing one, with three teachers in charge. The classes are full and as far as possible the school is graded.

SAN SEBASTIAN is reached by going back into the mountains for sixteen miles. Here a church is in the process of building. Our missionary, like all the others on the island, goes on horseback to the nearby towns. His out-stations are Las Marias, where we have also a Bible reader, Hoya Mala, Goacio, with a chapel building, and—

LARES, high up in the mountains. Here we have an

organized church in a rented building and a school conducted by two teachers. Part way by carriage and part by train we come to

ANASCO, with its organized church, held in a rented building. The school has two teachers.

MAYAGUEZ, we reach by train. It is an attractive town of about twenty thousand inhabitants, with the sea at its feet and the mountains rising beautifully green behind it. It was here that the first missionary of our Board was sent in June, 1899, and time has strengthened the work, which is now large and well established. Our church is in a beautiful building, and all its services are well attended. There is also a dispensary, and the resident physician cares for the poor not only of Mayaguez, but of the neighboring towns as well. He and the missionary, with the native helpers, are kept busy with the many out-stations, most of which must be visited on horseback. They are Playa North, Playa Central, where we have a chapel, Mayaguez East (all in the city); Balboa, Santo Domingo, La Cuesta, Guanajibo, Hormigueros, Maricao, Salispuedes, Algarrobo. Two of the native helpers here are converted priests, men of fine education, who are doing a great work amongst their people. Our schools are full, the one at the Playa—down by the shipping quarter—is among the poorer classes, whilst the school in the centre of the town draws its pupils rather from the well-to-do classes. It is called the Collegio Americano. Boys are admitted to the lower grades until they are ten years of age. It is not usual in those southern countries to have co-education, and it has been found best to conform to the Spanish custom. Girls are given a good

education and the graduates are taken as far as the first high school grade.

We have six teachers in this school. One of them, a native Porto Rican, gives instruction in the Spanish classics. As in all our schools, the Bible is in daily use.

From Mayaguez we travel by train to

SAN GERMAN, where we have an organized church for which a building is being erected. The missionary and his native helpers serve organized churches in the following neighboring towns: Sabana Grande, La Pica, Cabo Rojo and Lajas, besides preaching at Santa Rosa and Ancones.

We have now gone the rounds of our work in Porto Rico. It will be seen that, aside from work in the capital all our stations are in the western part of the island. This is the result of the comity agreement between the different denominations working in the island at the close of the war. It was agreed by the secretaries of the various Boards that the island should be districted. The portion for which we as a Presbyterian Church are responsible is the western coast. It will be helpful and interesting to look briefly at the good work now being done by the other denominations.

The Baptists, working in the neighborhood of the Military Road, from San Juan to Ponce, have thirty-five stations, four men and six women missionaries; twenty-one organized churches with fifteen hundred members, and one school.

The Congregationalists, in the eastern part of the island, have twenty-seven stations with eleven missionaries, including teachers; seven native helpers, five organized churches, five hundred and fifty members, and one day school.

The Methodist Church, working largely to the west of the Military Road, has ninety-one stations with twelve missionaries, and eighteen native helpers. They have seventeen organized churches with twenty-five hundred members.

The Protestant Episcopal Church has ten stations, four clergymen and five women missionaries; three organized churches with nearly five hundred members, and three day schools.

The United Brethren have a work in the southern part of the island. They have ten organized churches and four missionaries with three hundred and fifty members.

It is the hope of several of these denominations soon to found a Union Bible Training School, where the Bible and the fundamental doctrines of evangelical truth shall be taught, together with methods of church work. The faculty shall consist of one member of each of the co-operating denominations. This will declare to the Porto Ricans the essential unity of Protestantism.

CUBA

Much of the early history of Porto Rico is duplicated in Cuba. It was discovered by Columbus in 1492. He named it Juana, in honor of Prince Juan, son of Ferdinand and Isabella. After the death of Ferdinand the name was changed to Fernandina. Later it was called Santiago, and again Ave Maria. Cuba is said to be the name given to it by its native inhabitants. Columbus visited the island on two later trips, in 1494 and 1502. In 1508, it was circumnavigated and proved to be an island, and in 1511 Diego Columbus, the son of the discoverer, fitted out an expedition for its colonization. In 1514 Santiago and Trinidad were settled. Havana was founded in 1519.

At the time of its discovery Cuba is supposed to have had a population of about three hundred thousand. At the end of the century few of these survived. The same severe and bloody tactics which depopulated Porto Rico were employed in Cuba, and with the same results. After 1580 negro slaves were imported in large numbers to work in the cultivation of tobacco and sugar, both of which industries became active at that time. The early history of Cuba was not peaceful. The French, English and Dutch all attacked its shores. In 1762, after an invasion by the British, about one-fourth of the island was surrendered to the English, but it was restored to Spain by treaty a few months later. After this time Cuba entered upon a period of prosperity which continued for many years. In 1825 King Ferdinand issued a decree which gave the captain-generals almost absolute authority over the island. These officers were not natives of Cuba, and many of them used the office

solely as a means of acquiring a fortune. The people of Cuba were excluded from office, heavily taxed to support a standing army, and deprived of civil and religious liberty.

As a result the native population was filled with a bitter hatred of the Spanish officers. In 1868, after a series of insurrections, a rebellion broke out which lasted for ten years. Spain sent more than 150,000 soldiers to quell this revolt, but in the end was obliged to offer favorable terms to the insurrectionists. The promised reforms, however, were not realized; taxation continued as heavy, officials were as corrupt and restrictions on commerce were as severe as before the rebellion, and the natural result was a fresh outbreak of hostilities. This occurred in February, 1895. For three years Spain sought in vain to suppress the trouble, sending 200,000 men to the island, and using measures whose barbarity filled the world with horror. Under Captain-General Weyler the country people were driven from their homes, their houses and crops destroyed, and it is estimated that more than 200,000 of them died of disease and starvation.

President Palma said of that time, "Only in the United States was there sympathy for the oppressed and the outraged." Money and provisions were sent to feed the starving, and a strong sentiment in favor of warlike aid arose. This sentiment crystallized when the battle-ship Maine was blown up in the Havana harbor, in February, 1898, and on April 21st war was declared between the United States and Spain.

Within four months war was at an end and Cuba was free. By the terms of the peace protocol, Spain agreed to remove her forces from Cuba, and this was done on the first of January, 1899. On that day the

United States entered into a temporary military occupation of the island until a stable government should be established by the Cubans. This was accomplished in 1902, when a republic was constituted and Palma was inaugurated as president.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS.

Cuba is the most western and the largest of the Great Antilles. Because of its beauty and fertility, Columbus first gave it the title of the Pearl of the Antilles. "It has but a small proportion of untillable declivities and rocky areas, such as are found in New England; no barren fields of volcanic lava, such as occur in the Central American lands; no arid areas like those which make up so large a proportion of Mexico and the western half of the United States; no stretches of sterile, sandy lands, like those of Florida and other coastal Southern States. Its proportion of swamp lands is less than that of the average American seaboard State. The whole island is covered with rich soils—fertile calcareous loams—which under constant humidity yield in abundance every form of useful vegetation of the tropical and temperate climes."

Its area, including the adjacent islands, is about 45,000 square miles, or slightly less than that of New York State. It is nearly seven times as long as Long Island, and stretches between the longitudes of New York and Cincinnati, about 720 miles. It is less than one hundred miles wide. Its sea-coast is very extensive. With all its indentations and including its bordering islets—about thirteen hundred in number—it is over 6,800 miles. There are fifty-four ports, only fifteen of which have heretofore been open to the commerce of the world. The light-houses along the coast

are very few, and many of the harbors greatly need improving.

Cuba has a backbone of highlands, which in the province of Santiago becomes a mountain range of bold proportions, culminating in the Pico del Turquino, which rises very abruptly from the sea to a height of about 8,500 feet. Cuba is famous for its beautiful and fertile valleys, many of which are wide plains watered by rivers and streams on their way to the sea. One of the most beautiful is the peculiar circular basin west of Matanzas, called the valley of the Yumuri. "This comparatively level depression is some five or six miles in diameter, and dotted with picturesque estates and long avenues of royal palms. Through its center winds the beautiful Yumuri River, which finds an outlet at Matanzas through the vertical walls of an exquisite canon. It is enclosed on all sides by steeply sloping walls rising some five or six hundred feet to the level of a plateau out of which the valley has been cut. It has been truly said that it is impossible to describe the charm of this 'Happy Valley,' so rich in its vegetation, and so delightfully is it watered by the river Yumuri and tributary streams: so delicious, even on the hottest summer days is its atmosphere, tempered by the Atlantic breezes."

There are many streams on the island, two hundred of them rising to the dignity of being called rivers. The largest of these is the Cauto, about one hundred and fifty miles long. One peculiarity of the water courses is that many of the streams sink into the earth and follow subterranean passages, sometimes never reappearing. The caverns of the country are very beautiful in snow-like whiteness and delicacy of the stalactite and stalagmite forms.

Much of the island of Cuba is still covered with an uncleared forest of tropical luxuriance. Many of the finest woods of commerce are to be found there. The palm, with over thirty species, is everywhere present.

RESOURCES.

Three hundred years of cultivation have exterminated the forests from the valleys of the center and west of the island, and vast fields of sugar have taken their place. Many of the estates embrace several thousand acres, and the superior methods of handling cane and extracting the juice have made the cultivation of cane-sugar profitable in spite of the competition of beet-sugar, which has so impoverished many of the other islands of the West Indies. Cuba produces over one million tons of cane-sugar—twice as much as Java, the next largest cane-sugar country of the world.

Tobacco is secondary to sugar as to the area under cultivation, but is more profitable in proportion to the acreage. It is said that with care three thousand dollars worth of tobacco may be raised on a single acre. About eighty thousand persons are on an average engaged in its cultivation.

Coffee at one time was an important crop, but at present it is nearly all consumed locally. Fruit and nuts have been profitable, and can be made increasingly so. Vegetables for the northern market are a source of revenue. Along some portions of the coast turtle and sponge fishing are active industries. Cattle-raising is becoming an increasingly profitable industry owing to the large area of rich pasture lands. Iron ore has been so far the chief metallic resource of Cuba. Asphaltum is found in a few places, there is

also some copper and salt, but the mineral wealth of the island is not great.

The means of communication are poor, as aside from a few main highways the roads are in a poor condition. There are about sixteen hundred miles of railway. The principal line runs from Havana to Santiago. Some of the lines connect with private railways built by the planters for convenience in moving their crops. The fact that most of the large towns of Cuba are seaports, taken with the additional fact of the narrowness of the island and the numerous good harbors, has rendered the inhabitants more indifferent to the means of travel on land. Many of the ports are regularly visited by American, French, and Spanish lines of steamers.

Cuba is rather thinly populated considering its great fertility. In 1894 the estimated population was 1,723,000. During the troublous times of the insurrection with its fatal accompaniments of disease and famine there was a marked decrease.

THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY.

Of the Cuban whites, perhaps one-fifth are Spanish. In 1841 it is said that fifty-eight per cent. of the population was black, while in 1887 the percentage was but thirty. There are also about thirty thousand coolies who have been gradually imported, principally from China. The population of Cuba was greatly changed at the time of the insurrection. The rural population of the four western provinces was largely obliterated, and the Bishop of Havana is authority for the statement that more than four hundred thousand people were buried in consecrated cemeteries.

Seventy-five years ago, Humboldt placed Havana with Rio Janiero as one of the five great tropical

cities of the world. Havana is 22 degrees north, Rio 22 degrees south of the equator. When Humboldt wrote Havana had a population of one hundred thousand, while that of Rio was one hundred and thirty-five thousand. At present the population of Rio is about six hundred thousand, while that of Havana is but two hundred thousand. The uncertain governmental conditions in Cuba have doubtless been a large reason for the retarded growth of Havana.

San Cristobal de la Habana, to give the full Spanish name to this picturesque old city, is beautifully situated on one of the finest harbors of the world. Its entrance is guarded by several forts, famous for their antiquity. The building material of Havana is a loose-textured conglomerate of sea-shell, of a glaring white color. This is covered with stucco and often brilliantly colored. The parks and promenades of the city are many and beautiful. The Prado is a magnificent avenue of unusual width; the fashionable Parque Central, with its wealth of trees and flowers, forms an enlargement of this avenue, and is one of the attractive features of the city. Fronting on it are the best hotels and theatres, while around it extend open-air *cafes*, brilliantly lighted at night, and as gay as those of Paris.

Havana is said to possess 17,259 houses. Of these 15,494 are but one story high, 1,552 are two story buildings, 186 are three stories, while but 27 reach the limit of four stories. The small houses contain no storerooms, pantries or closets, which necessitates the purchase of supplies from day to day.

One-fifth of the population of Havana lives within the area once surrounded by the now demolished walls. Some of the old streets are so narrow that signs are placed on their corners signifying "up" or

"down," to indicate that drivers must pass in one direction only. Rents all over the city are very high, and Havana is a very expensive place in which to live.

The second city and seaport of central Cuba is Matanzas, about sixty miles east of Havana; its population is about fifty thousand.

Santiago, in the eastern province, is the center of the mineral region of Cuba. It is one of the most important places on the island from a strategic and political point of view. Its population is about sixty thousand.

MISSION STATIONS.

Although Cuba does not belong to us in any political sense, its proximity made it seem wise that our mission work there should be under the management of the Board of Home Missions, just as the remoteness of the Philippines had made it more convenient that its mission work should be conducted by the Board of Foreign Missions.

The progress of Protestant missions has been marked; the minds and hearts of the people turn eagerly toward the simple gospel. Especially in the smaller cities is it true that they welcome the Protestant missions, and that every place opened for services is filled with worshippers. The writer of a book entitled "To-morrow in Cuba," in speaking of the religious situation there, says: "To the mass of the Cuban people, the Church as it remained to them was hateful. It was identified with all that was bad in the buried Spanish domination. If not hostile they were indifferent....The extent to which the Cuban people have fallen away from the Church is recognized by American Catholics. Whether it is a permanent alienation must be determined by events....

The intellectual life of the island has been variously described as agnostic, infidel, and free thinking. A majority of the men call themselves free-thinkers to describe their mental attitude rather toward the Catholic Church than to religion." To meet these conditions our Protestant missionaries must show great tact and wisdom. One of the most delicate questions since the war has been that of the cemeteries. Popular resentment was strong against the Church for its monopoly of the burial of the dead, and the utterance of a young Cuban, "Protestantism cannot be bad because they baptize you free, and they bury you free," gives insight into the feelings of the Cubans as to the externals, at least, of our faith.

HAVANA was chosen as our first mission field, and in October, 1901, our first missionary began work. In January, 1902, the first Presbyterian church was organized, with fifty members. After worshipping for some years in a rented building, a plot of ground, centrally located, has been purchased, and good buildings are in process of erection. These will provide a church, accommodations for a school, and a manse for the missionary.

In countries like Cuba and Porto Rico, where the government has always supported the Church, the people are to a certain extent unfavorably impressed by a religion which is unable to put up a fine church building. They argue that if the people of that religion do not care enough for it to build a suitable church, the religion cannot be worth much.

Our missionary in Havana and his assistants preach in four other stations in the city besides the out-station Marinao. The Woman's Board conducts a school in Havana with two teachers. It also sup-

ports a Bible reader, who visits in the homes of the pupils and of the church attendants.

GUINES was the second station occupied by our church, in January, 1902. It is about thirty-five miles southeast of Havana; the journey by rail requires two hours, and the fare is more than a dollar and a half. It is a city of about nine thousand people, and is situated in a beautiful and fertile plain. The church here is a prosperous one. The elders are all Cubans who have been brought into the Protestant faith since our work was founded there. Our school is a flourishing one with three teachers.

Gamarra and San Nicolas are the out-stations: at the latter place we have also a school under the care of three teachers, two American and one native. These places are reached by horseback from Guines, for in Cuba, as in Porto Rico, most of the missionaries' journeys are made in that manner.

A few miles beyond San Nicolas we have two organized churches, at NUEVA PAZ and LAS VEGAS. The missionary and his wife live in the former place. We have there also a school.

SANCTI SPIRITUS is a long railway ride of two hundred miles east from Havana. It is situated about twenty-four miles from the coast, and in the province of Santa Clara; a rich agricultural district. It has a population of about twelve thousand people. It boasts the oldest Roman Catholic church on the island, dating back to 1604. In May, 1902, our mission work began there, and for several years it has been held in a building which was formerly a Jesuit college. This building has recently been sold, and as there is none other which is suitable for the church and school, the Boards are compelled to build one. Our missionary there serves also four out-stations.

The school is one of the largest we have in Cuba, and is conducted by two American and two native teachers. Coming back to Havana, we proceed westward on the line of the railway and find the station of

CANDELARIA. In addition to an organized church there we have one at Guira and one at Bejucal, besides stations at San Cristobal, Artemisa and Alquizar. Two missionaries supply this group of stations. Work has also been begun at Bahia Honda, a fertile sugar region on the coast west of Havana.

Having thus gone over the work which our own Boards are doing, we will look briefly at the work of the other denominations.

The Congregationalists have seven stations, three American missionaries, three native helpers, six organized churches and seven hundred church members.

The Southern Methodists have twenty-four men and women, fifteen native helpers, twenty-seven organized churches, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight church members. They have also three schools with an approximate attendance of seven hundred.

The Baptists have forty-eight stations, nine missionaries, including some ladies; ten native helpers, fourteen organized churches, eleven hundred members, one school and fifty pupils.

The Episcopal Church has eighteen stations, six missionaries, fourteen native helpers, four organized churches, four hundred and fifty members, besides five schools with four hundred pupils.

The work in both Cuba and Porto Rico has just begun. The islands wait. There is great need for men and means. There is no work which brings such large returns as the work for the saving of men—physically, mentally and spiritually. There is no way in which money goes so far as when spent in the uplifting of human souls.

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